

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at Be My Guest across from Mullins Crossing

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Elaine Attaway
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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Bourse Chairman, David Chism
Auction: Glenn Sanders
Bids Recorder, David Chism

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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Jan.-Feb. 2014

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM
Transition to new meeting place be My Guest working

Club Meeting Calendar for 2014

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Be My Guest an attractive facility for Club Meetings

Towards the end of 2013, our club survived what could have been a devastating setback when America's Best Value Inn suddenly closed its door for renovations but due to the diligence of members on the Executive Board a new facility was found quickly. As a result, no meetings were cancelled and the membership not only enjoys the new site, Be My Guest, but approved the Board's decision to raise the annual dues from \$12.00 to \$15.00 in order to pay the monthly rent.

In December, Treasurer, Mike Joesbury and Board Member Arno Safran stepped down to make way for any new members wishing to serve. As a result, Elaine Attaway was elected as our new Treasurer and Bill Orne to the Board of Directors. As our fiscal year begins in January, members are asked to remit \$15.00. Of course, those 2013 members who had perfect attendance will not have to pay a cent for 2014. Currently our treasury balance as of January 16, 2014, is \$7526.85. Thanks, Elaine.



At the Jan. meeting President Steven Nix presented Arno Safran with a plaque of appreciation for his thirteen years as newsletter editor. Arno plans to continue as editor and program chair for the club.

Photo by Connie Clayton

The SS GAIRSOPPA Remembered

By Bill Myers, former ACC President



In 1941 Great Britain was at war with Germany, and Great Britain had only two months of silver in reserve. The solution was to have silver shipped from India. The silver was part of the cargo aboard the SS Gairsoppa that sailed from India under the protection of a series of convoys. The ship was built in 1919 and named after waterfalls in Karnataka, India. On 17 February 1941 the ship was battling a storm off the southern coast of Ireland and was running short of coal so it had to break away from the convoy and head to Galway Harbour. It was spotted by a German aircraft and a German U-boat, U-101, torpedoed and the ship was sunk. Only one lifeboat got away and only one crew member survived. 85 died.

The company Odyssey Marine Exploration located the ship in 2011 and salvage operation in 2012 and 2013 netted 110 tons of silver ingots. The British Royal Mint obtained some of the silver and used it to mint 1/4 ounce 0.999 silver 50 pence coins with a Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Queen Elizabeth on the obverse and Philip Nathan's Britannia looking out to the sea on the reverse. SS GAIRSOPPA is along the edge.

The silver from India took 72 years to arrive in Great Britain and to be minted into coins.

The Program: At the Jan. 16 meeting, Arno Safran gave a PowerPoint presentation on the origin of the US dime and the major types for the denomination through the silver Roosevelt dime issue. For the upcoming February 20 meeting, our guest speaker will be Garry Naples will be presenting a program on Southern Banknotes and Bonds.

The prizewinners for the January 16, 2014 Meeting were: John Attaway who won the 1st Door Prize, a 2013 Silver Eagle and Richard Abraham who won the 2nd Door Prize, a 2009-P Lincoln Commemorative Silver Dollar Bryan Hoyt was the winner of the 50/50 Drawing - \$73.00, Congratulations, winners all.

Our next meeting will be this coming Thursday, Feb. 20 at Be My Guest. As our hosts have pre-committed to rent the right side dining room area, members have been requested upon entering the building, to go into the left side dining area. Please bring numismatic items for auction and Show & Tell.

Coin of the Month



A 1914-P Barber Half-dollar
(Use 3X glass or magnify page to 200% to view details.)

The Barber half dollar was produced at four different mints during its 24 year tenure, Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco and Denver. As a rule, the largest mintage were produced at the Philadelphia Mint but in 1913 thru 1915, the Philadelphia mintages were the smallest of all. In 1914, The Philadelphia Mint struck a scant 124,230 Barber halves the lowest recorded mintage of the 73 issues produced at the four different mints from 1892 thru 1915. While there are a few other dates with higher mintages that are considered scarcer, the 1914-P is still considered one of the popular keys of the series as it is scarce in all grades.

In 1992 the author began to assemble a complete set in Fine or better, beginning with the Philadelphia mint issues. At a small commercial show he came across a 1914-P Barber half graded Fine by the dealer. At that time *the Guide Book of United States Coins*, (AKA the Red Book) required that for a Barber dime, quarter or half-dollar, all seven letters in the word LIBERTY must show... If you magnify the page to 200% the dealer's assessment just about makes the grade, (no pun intended.)

At the recently held 2014 FUN show held in January at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, I decided to submit some of my better date "raw" Barber halves to PCGS for certification. Imagine my "pleasant" surprise when the 1914-P came back in a VF-25 holder.

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